

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman  
Sunetaro Miyakoda

*Published by the Commission on Public Relations  
of the National Christian Council of Japan*

Editors:  
Kaname Tsukahara  
David Vandyck

BLE CODE : JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS : CHRISTIAN CENTER, 2, 4-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates : Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 121

April 1, 1958

## In These Pages

Aid for Atomic Bomb Victims.....	1
Toward a United Strategy.....	3
United Church Missionaries Meet.....	6

## AID FOR ATOMIC BOMB VICTIMS

"The range and depth of misery caused by atomic bombing... strengthens the impression that in many ways this tragedy is qualitatively unique in its effect on human life and in the demand it makes on society as a whole to alleviate the suffering of its victims..."

This is the shocking report of an up-to-date survey made recently in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by a team under the leadership of Dr. Sam H. Franklin, Professor of Christian Ethics at Tokyo Union Theological Seminary. Nearly fourteen years after the event, the ghastly long-term consequences of atomic bombing were evident as Dr. Franklin and his committee interviewed civic leaders, institutional heads, Christian workers, and the bomb victims themselves in the two cities.

As a result of this intensive survey, Protestant Christians in this country are moving ahead again to do something more about it. Japan Church World Service, in cooperation with the National Christian Council, is launching a three-year program of aid to those in Hiroshima and Nagasaki who still suffer from the effects of the bombing. Centers will be maintained in each of the two cities with the following purpose:







No. 121 - April 1, 1958 - 2 -

--To coordinate and correlate relief work already being done by various groups.

--To distribute relief supplies, especially food and vitamins.

--To carry on case work with individuals and families affected by the bombing.

--To do group work among young people.

--To give vocational training to widows, orphans, and bomb victims.

--To carry on Christian evangelism.

A Japanese social worker, trained to do case work, has been hired for the project. One more social worker (Japanese or missionary) is still needed.

The maintenance budget for the three-year program (including staff salaries, rent, transportation, and committee expenses) will be raised from Japanese sources. The operating budget, to cover case work, rehabilitation, and Christian evangelism, will come from Christians overseas. \$3,000 has already been received from American churches, acting through Church World Service and the World Council. The Australian Council of Churches recently sent a contribution of \$225. The total cost of the program will be about \$6,200 for the first year, and between \$5,000 and \$6,000 for each of the two succeeding years.

The survey committee learned that in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki there are many organizations that seek to help the victims of the bombing. But there remains a tremendous area of need where practically nothing is being done. The Japanese government welfare program provides aid to the destitute. Relief is administered by local and prefectural authorities, with the assistance of funds from the central government. But there is not enough to go around. In proportion to the total need, very few families actually receive aid, and in each case the amount of assistance is minimal. In Hiroshima, 870 families of bomb victims receive government relief; in Nagasaki, 491 households get help. Officials stated, however, that five or six times this number stand in similar need.







No. 121 - April 1, 1958 - 3 -

Both cities have Christian Colleges. A settlement-house type of institution is now under construction to serve an underprivileged group in Hiroshima. The Episcopal Church has a social center. A similar center, related to the United Church, is at work in Nagasaki. All of these institutions do excellent work. None has a program directed specifically to the victims of the bomb.

Other members of the survey group, in addition to Dr. Franklin, were the Reverend Y. Manabe, member of the National Christian Council, and Chairman of the Japan Church World Service Committee, Ken Buma, associate director of Japan Church World Service, the Reverend S. K. Nishimura, pastor from Shiga Prefecture, and the Reverend Albert Huston, of the Brethren Service Commission. Mr. Buma will have administrative responsibility for the three-year project.

#### TOWARD A UNITED STRATEGY

--The United Church of Christ is now able to accept a large measure of responsibility for self-support, and for a coordinated program of evangelism in this country.

--Missionaries cooperating with the United Church are much better equipped than they were ten years ago to serve creatively on the central committees of the Church, and on district committees. They have gained in language proficiency and in a general understanding of the Japanese Church and its needs.

These two 'signs of hope' emerged recently as representatives from North America met for a week-long series of talks with Japanese Christian leaders. Representatives from five of the eight western denominations related to the Interboard Committee for Christian Work in Japan met with Japanese churchmen and missionaries in Tokyo and Karuizawa on March 17-22.

Conditions in the Church here are changing. Christian schools face serious difficulties. In view of the changing situation, the delegates felt that certain improvements in structure and emphasis are called for. At present the central liaison body for cooperative Christian work is the 'Council of Cooperation'. This Council is made up of four autonomous groups. It provides liaison between three of these groups and the fourth:







<u>Group</u>	<u>Representation</u>
1 United Church of Christ	11 Including the Moderator)
2 Christian Education Association	8 (Chosen by mission board-connected schools)
3 Christian Social Work League	6
4 Interboard Committee for Christian Work in Japan	10 (1 from each board. The Methodists and the United Church of Canada have separate women's boards. Hence 8 de-nominations operate through 10 mission agencies.)

The Council of Cooperation has the following responsibility:

--All requests for money or personnel from groups 1, 2, or 3 must be considered and approved by the COC before being presented to IBC.

--COC may recommend to IBC new phases of work involving funds and personnel.

--All missionaries going on furlough must be invited back by COC before they return to Japan.

--All missionaries sent to Japan by IBC are assigned by COC.

--All funds sent to Japan by IBC are used as COC designates.

To save time and expense, three sub-committees have been designated to plan work, make surveys, examine requests, and make recommendations to the COC. These are the Cooperative Evangelism Committee, the Cooperative Education Committee, and the Cooperative Social Work Committee.

This organization has worked well. Each constituent body learns what the others are doing. The result has been described as 'passive cooperation' on mutually appreciated activities. The COC involves, however, certain drawbacks. Because it is a consultative federation of autonomous bodies, it has not been able to formulate and execute a unified, aggressive evangelistic strategy. The delegates faced this problem: How can we adjust and strengthen existing structures, so that the Christian Mission in Japan may go forward under a unified strategy, making the best possible use of funds and man-power contributed by the overseas churches?





Most Japanese leaders are profoundly grateful for aid received from abroad. They realize the need for this, but they are also sensitive to the importance of building a strong stewardship program within their own Church. The Reverend Kozo Kashiwai, a member of the United Church's Executive Committee spoke to the conference regarding United Church finances. He made specific suggestions for increasing United Church resources, and for using help from abroad in such a way as to build a Church that is not dependent, but increasingly able to carry on its own mission of evangelism to the non-Christian community.

When evangelistic missionaries come to Japan they are assigned to a particular task by the COC without reference to their own denominational background. This policy is a success, and the conference felt it should be extended to include educational and social work missionaries as well.

The conferees also talked about the overseas scholarship program for Japanese students which is supported by IBC-related missions. At the present time a number of young people are sent each year for graduate study in the West. The hope is to broaden this program so that mature leaders in the church may also be given the opportunity to study, observe, and participate for a limited period in the life of the Church in North America or in Europe. The same thing would apply to Japanese leaders in the church-related schools and in Christian social work.

What of the future? The results of the March conference will have to be reviewed and approved by the participating bodies before concrete action can follow. The Reverend Charles Germany, missionary secretary, emphasizes that there must be continuing talks, in order to build deep understanding and mutual trust on the part of churchmen, schoolmen, social workers, missionaries, and board administrators. Responsible leaders must learn increasingly to take criticism and to sacrifice their own limited interests in the light of a united, aggressive strategy. In this way can the Gospel of Christ be proclaimed most effectively in Japan.

Local conference members were heartened by the enthusiasm of the IBC secretaries from America. The western representatives seemed to welcome every suggestion that might strengthen the Church, or serve to improve the effective utilization of funds and man-power from abroad.

It was deeply regretted here that three of the American denominations were not directly represented at the discussions in Tokyo and Karuizawa. Interboard Committee members who did participate were the following: Paul R. Gregory (Evangelical & Reformed Board, American Board), Vernon L. Farnham and Edwin O. Fisher (Evangelical United Brethren), David H. Gallagher (United Church of Canada) Donald F. West (United Christian Missionary Society and Interboard Committee Chairman), and Katharine Johnson (Interboard Committee Secretary).







### UNITED CHURCH MISSIONARIES MEET

Over the altar there was a red flash, as of lighting against a dark blue background. There was an open Bible and a lighted candle. There was a design representing the Lamb of God and a shepherd's staff. Such was the worship center in the auditorium at the San Maiso Hotel in Hakone-Yumoto, as more than 300 United Church-related missionaries came together in annual conference on March 25-28.

The worship center, designed by the Reverend William G. Weiss, indicated the conference theme: 'Let us worship and bow down'. Daily worship services, as well as the Thursday evening observance of Holy Communion, were led by Dr. Carl Michalson, Professor of Systematic Theology at Drew Seminary. Clear biblical insight, incisive thinking, and fitting touches of humor made the sermons of Dr. Michalson a highlight of the conference: 'Our God, and How to Know Him', 'Our Faith, and What it Means', and 'Our Neighbor, and How to Love Him'.

Morning Bible study was led each day by Dr. John Wick Bowman, distinguished professor of New Testament at San Francisco Theological Seminary, currently lecturing at International Christian University. Selected passages from II Corinthians, Galatians, and Hebrews formed the basis for the lectures and discussion.

Dr. Takeshi Muto, Moderator of the United Church, opened the Conference with a word of greeting. The Reverend Howard B. Haines, pastor of Tokyo Union Church, spoke on 'Personal Devotional Life'. One evening program was given to a presentation of the movie 'I Beheld His Glory', the story of our Lord's passion as seen through the eyes of a Roman officer. On Thursday evening, a large volunteer choir under the direction of Pierce Getz gave a concert of sacred music, including numbers such as "Command Thine Angel to Appear", by the seventeenth century composer, Dietrich Buxtehude, "Laudate Dominum", by Mozart, and "Mass in G", by Franz Schubert. This choral music, presented within a setting of worship, led immediately into the Holy Communion Service.

Conference members appreciated the fact that the program allowed time for leisure, visiting and unplanned discussion, in addition to the formal program and business sessions. The Reverend I. John Hesselink of Fukuoka was in charge of conference arrangements.



